

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03963 091235Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CONSULAR ACCESS AND TRAVEL IN TURK-CONTROLLED AREA OF
CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 3856

1. TURKISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR KARACA INFORMED DCM NOVEMBER 8 THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM ANKARA HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO EFFECT THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS LIVING IN TURK-CONTROLLED AREA OF CYPRUS WOULD BE AFFORDED "SPECIAL ATTENTION", INCLUDING FULL PROTECTION BY TURK AUTHORITIES. KARACA SAID THIS INSTRUCTION WOULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS TO FILE DOWN THROUGH CHAIN OF COMMAND BUT THAT WITHIN ONE WEEK WE SHOULD BEGIN TO SEE DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT IN MATTER OF CONSULAR ACCESS AND GENERAL ABILITY TO CARRY OUT PROTECTION/WELFARE RESPONSIBILITIES. NEW OFFICE SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS BEING SET UP UNDER AUTONOMOUS TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION'S (ATA) "VICE PRESIDENT" OSMAN OREK. KARACA CONFIDENT THAT NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD EASE PROBLEM; HE VOLUNTEERED TURK EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IF ROUGH SPOTS STILL ENCOUNTERED.

2. DCM REPLIED THAT THIS NEWS WAS ENCOURAGING AND ASKED IF TURK
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 03963 091235Z

MILITARY HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS FROM ANKARA. KARACA SAID

THAT DECISION WAS GOT POLICY; ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT REQUIRE SOMEWHAT LONGER FOR MILITARY IN CYPRUS TO RESPOND, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THERE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE COOPERATION AND SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY CONTINUE TO PRESS ITS APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL FIRMLY BUT POLITELY. DCM SAID THAT EMBASSY WOULD CERTAINLY DO SO BUT THAT WE REQUIRED NO LESS THAN FULL CAPABILITY A) TO VISIT PROPERTIES OF AMCITS, B) TO HAVE ACCESS TO AMCITS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, AND C) TO VERIFY RECIPIENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND TO DISTRIBUTE CHECKS IN ACCORDANCE OUR REGULATIONS. KARACA REPLIED THAT "IN DUE COURSE" ALL THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN TURK-CONTROLLED AREA.

3. KARACA SAID THAT RECENT RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL OF FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN TURK-CONTROLLED AREA INTO GREEK CYPRIOT AREA HAD BEEN TEMPORARY RIPOSTE TO SIMILAR GOC RESTRICTIONS. HENCEFORTH AMERICANS RESIDENT IN KYRENIA, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD TRAVEL FREELY TO GREEK NICOSIA.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS MOST PROMISING INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THUS FAR OF GOT INTENT TO FACILITATE CONSULAR ACCESS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN TO WHAT EXTENT TURK MILITARY WILL AGREE TO LET US TRAVEL IN AREAS HERETOFORE OFF LIMITS, SUCH AS FAMAGUSTA DISTRICT NORTH OF NICOSIA-FAMAGUSTA ROAD AND UP INTO KARPASS PENINSULA (YIALOUSA, FOR EXAMPLE), OR TO VISIT AMCIT PROPERTIES IN FAMAGUSTA CITY. ALSO TO BE DETERMINED IS TO WHAT EXTENT TURKISH AUTHORITIES WILL ALLOW FULL ACCESS TO AND PROTECTION OF AMCITS OF GREEK ORIGIN OR WITH GREEK SURNAMES. FINALLY, THERE IS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT WHATEVER ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISM TURKS SET UP COULD DEMAND GREATER IMPLIED RECOGNITION OF ATA, IN WHICH CASE WE WOULD COME CLOSER TO MOMENT OF TRUTH ON THIS ISSUE. CONCLUSION WE COME TO, THEREFORE, IS THAT "IMPROVEMENTS" DISCUSSED WITH KARACA COULD BE MIXED BLESSING. CRAWFORD

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